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212. (New) A liquid container according to Claim 210, characterized in that said supporting member is in the form of a latch lever extended downwardly from a portion adjacent to a top portion of said other side.

213. (New) A liquid container according to Claim 210, characterized in that a normal line from a central portion of said supply port to a line connecting a central portion of said first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion is not more than 10 mm.

214. (New) A liquid container according to Claim 210, characterized in that a normal line from a central portion of a contact portion of a supply tube of the recording head to said supply port to a line connecting a central portion of said first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion is not more than 10 mm.

215. (New) A liquid container according to Claim 210, characterized in that said supply port is on a line connecting a central portion of said first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion.

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 1, 2002. Claims 154 to 156, 158 to 176, 180 and 207 to 215 are now pending in the application, with Claims 207 to 215 having been added, Claims 43 to 57, 60, 65, 68 to

70, 72 to 101, 116 to 133, 149 to 153, 157, 177 to 179 and 181 to 206 having been cancelled, and Claims 154 and 156 having been amended. Claims 154 and 210 are the only independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the only rejection was of Claims 43 to 57, 60, 65, 72 to 101, 116 to 133 and 149 to 206 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for alleged undue multiplicity of claims based on an alleged unreasonable number of claims having been presented for examination. At page 3, lines 9-10 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that examination should be limited to 42 claims. While Applicants believe that a reasonable number of claims were presented for examination and therefore do not concede the propriety of the rejection, the number of claims have nonetheless been reduced to 32 total claims (Claims 154 to 156, 158 to 176, 180 and 207 to 215), of which only two (Claims 154 and 210) are independent. Therefore, the rejection is believed to be obviated and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

As a formal matter, Applicants note that they have not yet received an initialed Form PTO-1449 from the January 25, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement. The Examiner is respectfully requested to return an initialed form, indicating that the art cited therein has been considered, with the next communication. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the foregoing Form PTO-1449 is being submitted herewith.

In addition, Applicants note that the Examiner has not provided an indication that the Information Disclosure Statement dated May 9, 2001 has been considered and made formally of record. As such, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this Information Disclosure Statement has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

154. (Amended) A liquid container for an ink jet recording apparatus, capable of containing liquid to be used by an ink jet head, wherein said liquid container is detachably mountable to a holder having the ink jet head and an ink supply tube for directing liquid to the ink tank, said liquid container comprising:

a main body, provided with an ink accommodating member, for containing a liquid;

a supply port for supplying the liquid to the recording head, said supply port being disposed in a side which faces said ink supply tube when said liquid container is mounted in the holder, wherein said ink accommodating member faces said ink supply port [portion which takes a bottom in operation];

a first engaging portion, provided on a first side of said main body, adapted to engage with a first locking portion of the holder; and

an elastic supporting member having a second engaging portion at an outside thereof adapted to engage with a second locking portion of the holder, wherein said supply port is disposed between said first engaging portion and said second engaging portion.

156. (Amended) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said main body accommodates said accommodating member which is a negative pressure producing material for retaining the liquid.

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